(b) what is the total amount of money involved in these robberies; and

(c) what is the number of cases in which the culprits have been apprehended and how much money has been recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) During the first half of 1986, there was one case of burglary at the Connaught Place Branch at New Delhi of State Bank of Mysore on 27th May, 1986, in which two Chowkidars were killed. The break-up of cash and valuables taken away by the burglars is as under:—

	Rs.
(i) Cash	9,64,451-23
(ii) Foreign Currency . .	52,039.70
(iii) Gold Jewellery . .	84,167-30

In this connection, a case under Sections 458, 460, 380 and 302 IPC has been registered by the Delhi Police for investigation.

Smuggling of fabrics! from Korea, and Taiwan

1365. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the 'Vyapar' (A Gujarati biweekly) in its issue of 13th September, 1986 to the effect that Polyester and Nylon fabrics of many varieties of Korean and Taiwan origin are openly sold in the markets of Calcutta; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to stop such smuggling of fabrics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, sir

(b) Intelligence reports received by the Government and the seizures made indicate that synthetic fabrics continue to be sensitive for smuggling into India.

During the last two years, Calcutta Customs (Preventive)' Colletorate have seized synthetic fabrics valued at abouT Rs. 88.25 lakhs and during 1986 (upto October) about Rs. 124.02 lakhs The seized fabrics are of Japanese/Korean origin smuggled into India partly through Bangladesh.

The anti-smuggling drive in general has been intensified throughout the country with particular emphasis in the highly vulnerable areas of our sea coast/land border regions. The trends in smuggling and seizures made are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial mearures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

Stringent action is taken against the persons found involved in smuggling activities both departmentally as well as through prosecution in Courts. Apart from confiscation of goods involved and imposition of penalties in appropriate cases, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to.

News- item captioned "Rise in imports unabated"

1366. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Financial Express' of October 10, 1986 captioned "Rise in imports unabated";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) what is the likely import bill during the current financial year;

(d) what are the reasons for rise in imports; and

(e) wliat action is being taken to curb the imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item refers to growth in imports of 1.5 per cent and growth in exports of 24.6 per cent during the 1st Quarter of the current financial year over the corresponding period of last year.

(c) It would be difficult at this stage to assess precisely the import bill for the whole year.

(d) and (e) The rise in imports of 1.5 per cent is marginal. However, the Import Policy is under constant review so as to avoid unnecessary imports.

Closure of handloom units in Maharashtra

1367. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the closure of hand-looms units in Maharashtra has led to decrease in handloom exports and increased unemployment; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the nandloom units had suffered a set back due to inadequate support and marketing infrastructure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) According to information supplied by Government of Maharashtra, there were only 498 looms in Maharashtra meant for production of exportable varieties of handloom products. Out of these only 177 looms are functioning now. The closure of 321 looms, although substantial as compared to the total looms for exports in Maharashtra, is rather insignificant when compared to the total handloom exports as also the total number of looms in the country.

(b) No, Sir. Handloom units had not suffered a set back due to inadequate support and marketing infrastructure but due to mismanagement and production of varieties which were not of exportable quality.

Re-opening of Hope Textile Mills Indore

1368. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to reopen Hope Textile Mill at Indore which is lying closed since a long time, so as to provide employment to about a thousand workers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): The Textile Policy of June, 1985 states that where a unit has no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, there may be no alternative but to allow the unit to close down provided the interests of labour are fully protected. A Nodal Agency has been set up under the Textile Policy of June, 1985 to examine the viability or otherwise of sick textile units and to evolve and manage rehabilitation packages in. respect of those units which are found to be potentially viable. The Nodal Agency in its meeting held on 7.7.86 has come to the conclusion that Hope Textiles. Indore is non-viable.

Sale of Janata cloth in black market

1369. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received complaints to the effect that Janata cloth earmarked for the poor was